

CGP CONSORTIUM - MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

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Date: Wednesday, September 7, 2022
Hosted by: Niagara Region
Location: Zoom Meeting
Meeting Chair: Todd Harrison, Commissioner/Treasurer, Corporate Services, Niagara Region
Recorder: Kathy Beach, Executive Assistant, Corporate Services, Niagara Region

Attendees:

Scott Johnstone Brock University
Manoj Dilwaria City of Thorold
David Oakes City of St. Catharines

Guests:

Jeff Dixon Meridian Centre
Ken Chan Brock University

Regrets:

Ron Tripp Niagara Region
Geoff Holman City of Thorold
Lara Verdone Canada Games Park

1. Adoption of Agenda – Approved, with additions under agenda item 5. Other

2. Approval of Minutes – Updated July 21, 2022; and August 10, 2022 - Approved

3. Business:

a. Fall Plans for Gym Usage (D. Oakes)

Dave noted he had a recent discussion with Niagara Sport and Social, and inquired about the future plans for the gym space users. This item will be updated under item 4.1.

b. Walker Sports and Abilities Centre – Naming Rights Update (T. Harrison)

Todd provided an update noting that Ron attended a meeting regarding the issues with the naming of the Walker Sports and Abilities Centre. There is a follow up meeting in the next few weeks to discuss how to move forward.

4. Updates

a. Independent Operator (IO) Transition

(J. Dixon)

- The building is performing quite well. Jeff acknowledged the Niagara Region staff, especially Nicole Menard, Project Lead for all her time and efforts.
- Still working on few building deficiencies. Moving forward, Jeff will provide the Consortium with any short and/or long-term deficiencies to look which could be included as part of the operating and capital budgets as part of the process.
- Working closely with Brock on the gym allocations, as they are the primary users during the non-primetime hours, to understand their needs and allocations.
- Currently, approximately 75% of the prime-time space is allocated, as work continues with user groups to identify their needs for usage of space. Jeff feels positive to hit the allocations and percentages as outlined in the pro-forma.
- Ice is now in the building with Brock and other user groups from St. Catharines and Thorold using it. There are some challenges with Rink #2 and de-humidification, and keeping the building at the right temperatures to ensure the ice stays hard and frozen. There is an emergency meeting this morning at 10:00am to regulate the problem.
- September, reasonable ice usage booked, with October set with full allocation for ice.
- There are a number of projects on the go including advertising (i.e. in-ice ads, rink board ads, etc)
- We are still waiting to hear from a number of advertisers, including a few from Lang (Wendy Dueck).
- Should be rolling out by the end of this week, Brock have requested first use on the ice in Rink #2 to make it feel a little more like Brock home games which we agree with as the operator. Currently it has the Algoma in the middle (typically, you would see the home of the sport organization in the middle, and the name of the rink around the circle). We've taken a different approach on the sponsorship of it where we still allow Brock the chance to purchase some sponsorship in the ads. Brock Sports Committee is looking to see that to make sure it looks like the home of the Badgers while on camera, etc.
- Work continues on website design.
- Staffing is the biggest challenge at this time. It is difficult to hire new staff due to lack of applicants. Lara Verdone is still away, with no date of return set yet. The Director of Finance, Robert Jones has announced his retirement. Recruitment is currently underway for his replacement. He has agreed to stay on as needed.

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- The majority of the Host Society have departed the building now that the Games are completed. There were very few clean-up repairs needed to be done after their stay in the building. According to their Venue Use Agreement, they still have access to the Administration/HR space and the Sport Niagara CSIO space, originally allocated to them, until the end of the year. Jeff reached out to the Host Society a few times regarding extending the Equipment Usage Agreement since that has now expired. He noted he would continue to follow up on weekly basis with the Host, who agreed to update the agreement. In the meantime, they will continue to use the equipment.

5. Other

a. Indigenous Art

(D. Oakes)

Dave mentioned St. Catharines did a totem pole restoration that was intended to go back to St. Catharines Centennial Park. Due to the value, there has since been a request by the artist to have it placed inside, either under cover or in a building. St. Catharines thought perhaps the Canada Games Park building could be a potential location, with the city paying the expenses associated with the relocation. Discussion ensued, with Scott emphasizing it is very difficult to move or decommission an art piece once in place.

Action:

Dave will forward a proposal to the Consortium partners for review and consideration.

b. ASM Request for Q3 Advance

(M. Dilwaria)

A request for an advance was made by ASM to the operating partners in August.

Discussion ensued on the characterization of the advance, with direction that Todd raise the issue with the Consortium Finance partners, and report back at the next meeting.

Next meeting: Wednesday, September 21, 2022